NOT QUITE THERE

Women in democracies still lack equal status

GT 8/17/04

Chuck Asay's cartoons usually bug me, so I was surprised on Sunday to find a hint of wisdom that I did not expect. He made the point that what Muslim men fear most is neither George W. Bush nor John Kerry, but rather the liberation of Muslim women. I agree.

But Asay made the common mistake of assuming that American women are liberated. They are not.

The foundation of almost every human religious society from the beginning of history is the belief that women should be subject to men, and that God wants it that way. That's not true either. (When did we ever hear from the pope, or James Dobson, a sermon or a teaching from the biblical text, "In Christ there is neither male nor female"?)

Democracy, which our president wants to impose upon Iraq, is that form of government in which the people (including women) govern. But there is no democracy on Earth that allows women to be regarded as real people enough to overcome the ancient prejudice that requires women to defer to men. Sadly, most churches are not democratic for women. A woman aspiring to for leadership is usually shunted off to lead other women and/or children.

I am of the opinion that even in our would-be democracy, men here are as fearful of actually liberating women and allowing them equality as are the clerics and the men of Iraq.

Rev. Robert G. Hewitt
Colorado Springs

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